CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER R5-2020-XXXX

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

FOR

HARRIS FARMS, INC. DBA HARRIS RANCH
HARRIS RANCH INN AND RESTAURANT WWTF
FRESNO COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, (hereafter Central Valley Water Board) finds that:

1. On 5 June 2018, Harris Ranch submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) to apply for revised Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for an existing privately-owned wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) in Coalinga. Additional information to complete the RWD was submitted on multiple dates in October and December 2019.

2. Harris Ranch (hereafter "Discharger") owns and operates the Harris Ranch Inn and Restaurant (formerly the I-5 and Dorris Avenue Rest Stop) WWTF, contracting out the operation of the facility, and is responsible for compliance with these WDRs.

3. The facility is located at 24505 West Dorris Avenue (State Highway 198) in Coalinga (Section 28, T19S, R16E, MDB&M) between Napa Avenue and Interstate Highway 5 (I-5). The WWTF occupies Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN) 065-06-87, as shown on Attachment A, which is attached hereto and made part of this Order by reference.

4. WDRs Order 85-159, adopted by the Central Valley Water Board on 28 June 1985, prescribes requirements for the discharge of wastewater from a commercial development in the SE quadrant of the I-5/Dorris Avenue interchange (Facility) and allows an average dry weather flow of up to 0.065 million gallons per day (MGD). In 1985, operation of the WWTF was performed under contract by the City of Coalinga, named in WDRs Order 85-159 as a responsible party. In 2018 the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) associated with Order 85-159 was revised to address changes in effluent quality due to facility expansion over time. The current RWD proposes to expand and upgrade the WWTF to improve and increase the capacity of the treatment system. Central Valley Water Board staff determined that the WWTF shall continue to be regulated under individual waste discharge requirements, with updates to address the multiple changes which have been implemented since 1985, by issuing a new Order. Therefore, Order 85-159 will be rescinded and replaced with this Order.

EXISTING FACILITY AND DISCHARGE

5. The existing WWTF serves the I-5 and Dorris Avenue Rest Stop known as Harris Ranch Inn and Restaurant resort complex, including four restaurants, a gas station with convenience store and deli, a general store with meat market and bakery, and a 153-room hotel. The number of hotel rooms and the food service capacity of the upstream service area have increased greatly since 1985. Current WWTF treatment

capacity under Order 85-159 is 0.065 MGD, however, on 9 June 2000 the Discharger submitted a RWD informing the Central Valley Water Board of some modifications they had made which increased the WWTF's capacity. Because of this capacity increase, as of December 2000, per California Water Code § 13264, the WWTF is permitted for effluent flow rates up to 0.100 MGD with peak hourly flow of 0.300 MGD. Recent flow rates generally average roughly 0.060 MGD, with peak hourly flows of 0.200 MGD experienced over summer holiday weekends. For average daily flow rate, the minimum and maximum listed are based on the monthly basis reported.

Table 1 Influent summary for December 2017 through September 2019

Parameter	Units	Average	Minimum	Maximum
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	mg/L	497	220	975
Nitrate as N	mg/L	< 0.05	< 0.05	0.2
Nitrite as N	mg/L	< 0.05	< 0.05	0.1
Total nitrogen	mg/L	41	19	69
Average daily flow rate	gpd	72,300	48,800	134,600
Maximum daily flow rate	gpd	90,100	58,800	152,300

6. The resort complex's source water is from Westlands Water District's Lateral PV-4-0.7 from the Coalinga Canal. Some of the canal water supply is used directly for on-site landscape irrigation, while around 55% of the supply (roughly 200 gpm per the RWD) is treated for potable domestic use. Electrical conductivity (EC) is monitored quarterly, with other constituents monitored once every three years. Data reported are in Table 2 showing reporting periods since the revised MRP was issued in 2018.

Table 2 Source water electrical conductivity (EC) in units of µmhos/cm

4Q2018	1Q2019	2Q2019	3Q2019
550	646	542	272

Source water constituents weren't monitored prior to the issuance of the revised MRP, so data reported in Table 3 are for a single sampling event on 11 October 2018. Constituent concentrations below the reporting limits (RL) are shown as less than the reporting limit value. (These below RL concentrations were all reported as zero in the Discharger's tri-annual source water monitoring.)

Table 3 Source water constituent concentrations as reported in the WWTF's monitoring reports for 2018 and 2019. All units are mg/L.

Parameter	Concentration
Alkalinity	68
Bicarbonate	68
Boron	< 0.10
Calcium	17
Carbonate	< 3
Chloride	110

Parameter	Concentration
Hardness	92
Iron	< 0.03
Manganese	< 0.01
Magnesium	12
Potassium	3
Sodium	66
Sulfate	20
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	280

7. The treatment system influent flows by gravity to headworks with flow measurement, grease treatment, and a solids separation auger, where trash and other large solids are removed. The solids are collected in a bin placed under the auger outlet, then disposed of off-site. Pumps move the undisinfected primary wastewater to two unlined aeration ponds, working in parallel, with total retention time of 12 days. From the aeration ponds, undisinfected secondary wastewater is pumped to one of five unlined storage ponds where it is allowed to evaporate and to percolate into the soil.

8. Storage Pond #1 has been taken out of service, leaving Storage Ponds #2-6 for wastewater disposal. All ponds have at least 2 feet of freeboard. Pond dimensions are shown in Table 4, below, with the proposed secondary aeration ponds included.

Table 4 Pond dimensions

Pond Name	Depth [feet]	Surface area [acres]	Volume [million gallons]	Residence time [days]	Pond status
Aeration Pond 1	8.5	0.53	0.90	12	existing
Aeration Pond 2	8.5	0.53	0.90	12	existing
Secondary aeration pond 1	8.0	0.59	1.19	12	proposed
Secondary aeration pond 2	8.0	0.59	1.19	12	proposed
Storage Pond 2	5	0.80	2.00	not applicable	existing
Storage Pond 3	5	0.80	2.00	not applicable	existing
Storage Pond 5	2	2.36	1.50	not applicable	existing
Storage Pond 6	2	2.26	1.42	not applicable	existing

9. Effluent quality is measured from sampling at the outlet of the current polishing pond, as the water is transferred to the percolation/evaporation ponds. Effluent quality data is presented in Table 5, showing an average 89% BOD decrease from 497 mg/L to 55 mg/L through treatment in the pond system.

Table 5 Effluent summary for December 2017 through September 2019

Parameter	Units	Average	Minimum	Maximum
BOD	mg/L	55	22	160

Parameter	Units	Average	Minimum	Maximum
Total suspended solids (TSS)	mg/L	178	31	310
Settleable solids	mL/L	15	0.1	39
Total dissolved solids (TDS)	mg/L	599	530	690
Total nitrogen	µg/L	18	11	34

10. Sludge depth is evaluated as needed based on operator experience and pond performance. A core sampler (e.g. “sludge judge”) is used to measure the sludge depth. If the sludge layer is thicker than optimal, the pond in question will be taken out of service to divert wastewater to the other pond(s) until the sludge can be removed and hauled off-site.

11. Waste sludge is handled only after the pond from which it is removed has been allowed to dry. The waste sludge at the pond bottom is either tilled in directly to the pond bottom or is collected and hauled off-site to a permitted landfill.

12. There have been no WDR violations since mid-2016, but the WWTF has had 300 violations between September 2008 and May 2016, mainly because TSS, BOD, settleable solids, and or flow rates exceeded the limits specified in the 85-159 WDR. Other violations recorded in the past ten years have been mainly for incomplete recordkeeping and gaps in sampling data.

PLANNED CHANGES IN THE FACILITY AND DISCHARGE

13. Because of difficulties in effectively reducing BOD through the current treatment system during periods of high flow, which also have elevated influent BOD, the Discharger proposes to modify one of the percolation and evaporation ponds to create a set of sludge stabilization (“polishing”) ponds, which will provide additional treatment before wastewater disposal. Storage pond 4, the nearest storage pond to the south of the aeration ponds, is proposed to be divided into two ponds which will be operated in parallel, with an expected residence time of 12 days, as shown in Table 4, above. From the polishing ponds the treated undisinfected wastewater will flow to a distribution box where it will be directed to one of four unlined storage ponds (numbered 2,3,5,6) allowing the wastewater to evaporate and to percolate into the soil. Storage ponds #5 and #6 alone will be used for normal final evaporation and percolation, with ponds #2 and #3 available if additional storage capacity is needed.

SITE-SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

14. The WWTF is on the western side of the San Joaquin Valley at an elevation of about 450 feet above sea level. The topography is generally level with a less-than two percent grade rising toward the west. There are no surface waters within two miles. Any rainfall percolates directly into the soil or flows off engineered surfaces into the adjacent soil.

15. The WWTF is not in any flood plain.

16. Soil is generally Panhill sandy loam.

17. The climate at this location is arid with high year-round evapotranspiration rates, averaging four (4) inches per month in wet years (100-year rainfall) and 6.5 inches per month in average years. Average annual precipitation for the past five years is less than six (6) inches, though normal precipitation is 8.25 inches, falling mainly from October to April. Annual precipitation in a 100-year rain event is 13 inches.

18. Surrounding lands are desert scrub or fallow. There are irrigated orchards to the northeast and indications of new orchard planting to the east, but no farming, residential, or industrial land uses immediately adjacent to the WWTF, aside from the resort complex that is approximately one half mile away.

GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS

19. The WWTF and surrounding area sit on poorly consolidated Cenozoic nonmarine sediments with good drainage.

20. Depth to groundwater is more than 500 feet below land surface based on USGS data. There is no local shallow groundwater.

21. The nearest groundwater supply well operated by Harris Farms is more than one mile northeast of the WWTF. Two wells, owned by others, are located within one half mile of the WWTF. One well (ID# 22N01) was drilled in 1968 to a depth of 2,050 feet with the pump intake set at 966 feet below ground surface, while the other well (ID# 27M01) was drilled in 1960 to a depth of 2,222 feet. The water from these wells is used for crop irrigation. The few wells that are located beyond a half-mile radius are extremely deep, with screenings (“well casing perforations”) located below the Corcoran clay layers. These are believed to be hydraulically disconnected from any percolation from the WWTF ponds.

22. There is no groundwater monitoring due to the depth of groundwater.

23. The historical discharge from the WWTF over the past three decades indicates that the quality of the discharge is unlikely to cause degradation of groundwater.

BASIN PLAN, BENEFICIAL USES, AND REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

24. The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin, Third Edition*, revised May 2018 (hereafter Basin Plan) designates beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives, contains implementation plans and policies for protecting waters of the basin, and incorporates by reference plans and policies adopted by the State Water Board. Pursuant to California Water Code section13263(a), waste discharge requirements must implement the Basin Plan.

25. Local drainage is to groundwater in the Westlands Hydrologic Area. Beneficial uses of groundwater as stated in the Basin Plan are municipal and domestic supply (MUN), agricultural supply (AGR), and industrial service supply (IND).

26. The Basin Plan establishes narrative water quality objectives for chemical constituents, tastes and odors, and toxicity in groundwater. It also sets forth a numeric objective for total coliform organisms.

27. The Basin Plan's numeric water quality objective for bacteria requires that the most probable number (MPN) of coliform organisms over any seven-day period shall be less than 2.2 per 100 mL in MUN groundwater.

28. The Basin Plan identifies the greatest long-term problem facing the entire Tulare Lake Basin as the increase in salinity in groundwater, which has accelerated due to the intensive use of soil and water resources by irrigated agriculture. Salinity increases in ground water could ultimately eliminate the beneficial uses of Tulare Lake Basin groundwater. The Basin Plan establishes several salt management requirements.

29. The Basin Plan's narrative water quality objectives for chemical constituents, at a minimum, require waters designated as municipal or domestic supply to meet the MCLs specified in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (hereafter Title 22). The Basin Plan recognizes that the Central Valley Water Board may apply limits more stringent than MCLs to ensure that waters do not contain chemical constituents in concentrations that adversely affect beneficial uses.

30. The narrative toxicity objective requires that groundwater be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations that produce detrimental physiological responses in human, animal, plant, or aquatic life associated with designated beneficial uses.

31. Quantifying a narrative water quality objective requires a site-specific evaluation of those constituents that have the potential to impact water quality and beneficial uses. The Basin Plan states that when compliance with a narrative objective is required to protect specific beneficial uses, the Central Valley Water Board will, on a case-by-case basis, adopt numerical limitations in order to implement the narrative objective.

32. In the absence of specific numerical water quality limits, the Basin Plan methodology is to consider any relevant published criteria. General salt tolerance guidelines, such as *Water Quality for Agriculture* by Ayers and Westcot and similar references indicate that yield reductions in nearly all crops are not evident when irrigation water has an EC less than 700 µmhos/cm. There is, however, an eight- to ten-fold range in salt tolerance for agricultural crops and the appropriate salinity values to protect agriculture in the Central Valley are considered on a case-by-case basis. It is possible to achieve full yield potential with waters having EC up to 3,000 µmhos/cm if the proper leaching fraction is provided to maintain soil salinity within the tolerance of the crop.

33. The Central Valley Water Board adopted Basin Plan amendments incorporating new programs for addressing ongoing salt and nitrate accumulation in the Central Valley at its 31 May 2018 Board Meeting. On 16 October 2019, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted a resolution approving the Central Valley Water Board Basin Plan amendments and also directed the Central Valley Water Board to make targeted revisions to the Basin Plan amendments within one year from the approval of the

Basin Plan amendments by the Office of Administrative Law. These programs, once effective, could change how the Central Valley Water Board permits discharges of salt and nitrate. The Salinity Control Program currently being developed would subject dischargers that do not meet stringent salinity numeric values (700 µmhos/cm EC as a monthly average to protect the AGR beneficial use and 900 µmhos/cm as an annual average to protect the MUN beneficial use) to performance-based salinity requirements and would require these dischargers to participate in a Basin wide Prioritization and Optimization Study to develop a long-term strategy for addressing salinity accumulation in the Central Valley. The level of participation required of dischargers whose discharges do not meet stringent salinity requirements will vary based on factors such as the amount of salinity in the discharge, local conditions, and type of discharge. The Central Valley Water Board anticipates that the Salt and Nitrate Control Program initiative will result in regulatory changes that will be implemented through conditional prohibitions and modifications to many WDRs region-wide, including the WDRs that regulate discharges from the Facility. This Order may be amended or modified to incorporate any newly-applicable requirements.

34. The stakeholder-led Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative has been coordinating efforts to implement new salt and nitrate management strategies. The Board expects dischargers that may be affected by new salt and nitrate management policies to coordinate with the CV-SALTS initiative. More information regarding this regulatory planning process can be found on the Central Valley Water Board CV-SALTS website (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity)

ANTIDEGRADATION ANALYSIS

35. State Water Resources Control Board Resolution 68-16, *Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters of the State*, (hereafter Resolution 68-16) prohibits degradation of groundwater unless it has been shown that:

    a. The degradation is consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the state,

    b. the degradation will not unreasonably affect present and anticipated future beneficial uses,

    c. the degradation does not result in water quality less than that prescribed in state and regional policies, including violation of one or more water quality objectives, and

    d. the discharger employs best practicable treatment or control (BPTC) to minimize degradation.

36. This Order establishes effluent limitations for the facility that will not unreasonably threaten present and anticipated beneficial uses or result in groundwater quality that exceeds water quality objectives set forth in the Basin Plan as follows:

    a. There is no current groundwater monitoring data due to the extreme depth of groundwater. The discharge is unlikely to pose a threat of degradation in the future.

37. The Discharger provides treatment and control of the discharge that incorporates:

    a. Kitchen controls that limit the discharge BOD to less than 600 mg/L;

    b. Solids removal from the wastewater using a rotary auger;

    c. Regular inspections of the aeration, benthic stabilization, and percolation/evaporation ponds.

OTHER REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

38. In compliance with Water Code section 106.3, it is the policy of the State of California that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes. This order promotes that policy by requiring discharges to meet maximum contaminant levels designed to protect human health and ensure that water is safe for domestic use.

39. Based on the threat and complexity of the discharge, the facility is determined to be classified as 3B as defined below:

    a. Category 3 threat to water quality: “Those discharges of waste that could degrade water quality without violating water quality objectives, or cause a minor impairment of designated beneficial uses as compared with Category 1 and Category 2.”

    b. Category B complexity, defined as: “Any discharger not included [as Category A] that has physical, chemical, or biological treatment systems (except for septic systems with subsurface disposal) or any Class 2 or Class 3 waste management units.”

40. Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations (hereafter Title 27) contains regulatory requirements for the treatment, storage, processing, and disposal of solid waste. However, Title 27 exempts certain activities from its provisions. Discharges regulated by this Order are exempt from Title 27 pursuant to provisions that exempt domestic sewage, wastewater, and reuse. Title 27, section 20090 states in part:

    The following activities shall be exempt from the SWRCB-promulgated provisions of this subdivision, so long as the activity meets, and continues to meet, all preconditions listed:

    (a) Sewage - Discharges of domestic sewage or treated effluent which are regulated by WDRs issued pursuant to Chapter 9, Division 3, Title 23 of this code, or for which WDRs have been waived, and which are consistent with applicable water quality objectives, and treatment or storage facilities associated with municipal wastewater treatment plants, provided that residual sludges or solid waste from wastewater treatment facilities shall be discharged only in accordance with the applicable SWRCB-promulgated provisions of this division.

    (b) Wastewater - Discharges of wastewater to land, including but not limited to evaporation ponds, percolation ponds, or subsurface leach fields if the following conditions are met:

(1) the applicable RWQCB has issued WDRs, reclamation requirements, or waived such issuance;

(2) the discharge is in compliance with the applicable water quality control plan; and

(3) the wastewater does not need to be managed according to Chapter 11, Division 4.5, Title 22 of this code as a hazardous waste. …

41. The discharge authorized herein, and the treatment and storage facilities associated with the discharge, are exempt from the requirements of Title 27 as follows:

    a. Discharges to Storage Ponds 2, 3, 5, and 6 are exempt pursuant to Title 27, sections 20090(a) and (b) because they are discharge of wastewater to land and:

        i. The Central Valley Water Board is issuing WDRs.

        ii. The discharge is in compliance with the Basin Plan, and

        iii. The treated effluent discharged to the ponds does not need to be managed as hazardous waste.

42. The State Water Board adopted Order 2014-0057-DWQ (NPDES General Permit CAS000001) specifying waste discharge requirements for discharges of storm water associated with industrial activities, and requiring submittal of a Notice of Intent by all affected industrial dischargers. The Discharger is covered under NPDES General Permit CAS000001.

43. Water Code section 13267(b)(1) states:

    In conducting an investigation specified in subdivision (a), the regional board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste within its region … shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the board requires. The burden, including costs of these reports, shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In requiring those reports, the regional board shall provide the person with a written explanation with regard to the need for the reports, and shall identify the evidence that supports requiring that person to provide the reports.

    The technical reports required by this Order and the attached Monitoring and Reporting Program R5-2020-XXXX are necessary to ensure compliance with these waste discharge requirements. The Discharger owns and operates the facility that discharges the waste subject to this Order.

44. The California Department of Water Resources sets standards for the construction and destruction of groundwater wells (hereafter DWR Well Standards), as described in *California Well Standards Bulletin 74-90* (June 1991) and *Water Well Standards: State of California Bulletin 94-81* (December 1981). These standards, and any more stringent standards adopted by the state or county pursuant to Water Code section

13801, apply to all monitoring wells used to monitor the impacts of wastewater storage or disposal governed by this Order.

45. The action to revise waste discharge requirements for an existing facility is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality (CEQA), Public Resource Code section 21000 et seq., in accordance with California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 14, § 15301. Alternatively, this action may be considered exempt from CEQA because it is both an action by a regulatory agency for the protection of natural resources (CCR, tit. 14 § 15307), and an action by a regulatory agency for the protection of the environment (see *id.*, § 15308).

46. Pursuant to Water Code section 13263(g), discharge is a privilege, not a right, and adoption of this Order does not create a vested right to continue the discharge.

PUBLIC NOTICE

47. All the above and the supplemental information and details in the attached Information Sheet, which is incorporated by reference herein, were considered in establishing the following conditions of discharge.

48. The Discharger and interested agencies and persons have been notified of the Central Valley Water Board's intent to prescribe revised waste discharge requirements for this discharge, and they have been provided an opportunity to submit written comments and an opportunity for a public hearing.

49. All comments pertaining to the discharge were heard and considered in a public hearing.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Order 85-159 and Revised Monitoring and Reporting Program 85-159 are rescinded and, pursuant to Water Code sections 13263 and 13267, the Discharger, its agents, successors, and assigns, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the Water Code and regulations adopted hereunder, shall comply with the following:

A. Discharge Prohibitions

1. Discharge of wastes to surface waters or surface water drainage courses, including irrigation ditches outside of control of the Discharger, is prohibited.

2. Discharge of waste classified as 'hazardous', as defined in the California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 66261.1 et seq., is prohibited.

3. Discharge of waste classified as 'designated', as defined in CWC Section 13173, in a manner that causes violation of groundwater limitations, is prohibited.

4. Bypass around, or overflow from, the wastewater treatment ponds is prohibited, except as allowed by Standard Provision E.2 of the Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements.

5. Discharge of waste at a location or in a manner different from that described in the Report of Waste Discharge Findings of this Order is prohibited.

6. Discharge of toxic substances into any wastewater treatment system or land application area such that biological treatment mechanisms are disrupted is prohibited.

B. Flow Limitations

1. Effectively immediately, influent flows to the wastewater treatment system shall not exceed the following limits, where the total annual flow is the total flow for the calendar year, maximum average daily flow is the total flow during the calendar month divided by the number of days in that month:

Table 6 Flow limits

Flow Measurement	Flow Limit	Units
Total Annual Flow	54.75	Million Gallons
Maximum Average Daily Flow	0.150	MGD
Peak Daily Average Flow	0.195	MGD
Peak Hourly Discharge Rate	0.375	MGD

C. Effluent Limitations

1. Effluent discharged to the storage ponds shall not exceed the following limits:

Table 7 Effluent limits

Constituent	Limit	Basis	Units
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	40	30-day mean	mg/L
BOD	80	Maximum	mg/L
Total suspended solids (TSS)	40	30-day mean	mg/L
TSS	80	Maximum	mg/L

D. Discharge Specifications

1. No waste constituent shall be released, discharged, or placed where it will cause a violation of the Groundwater Limitations of this Order.

2. Wastewater treatment, storage, and disposal shall not cause pollution or a nuisance as defined by Water Code section 13050.

3. The discharge shall remain within the permitted waste treatment areas at all times.

4. The Discharger shall operate all systems and equipment to optimize the quality of the discharge.

5. All treatment and storage/disposal systems shall be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to prevent inundation or washout due to floods with a 100-year return frequency.

6. Objectionable odors shall not be perceivable beyond the limits of the property where the waste is generated, treated, and/or discharged at an intensity that creates or threatens to create nuisance conditions.

7. As a means of ensuring compliance with Discharge Specification C.6, the dissolved oxygen (DO) content in the upper one foot of any wastewater treatment or storage pond shall not be less than 1.0 mg/L for three consecutive sampling events. Notwithstanding the DO monitoring frequency specified in the monitoring and reporting program, if the DO in any single pond is below 1.0 mg/L for any single sampling event, the Discharger shall implement daily DO monitoring of that pond until the minimum DO concentration is achieved for at least three consecutive days. If the DO in any single pond is below 1.0 mg/L for three consecutive days, the Discharger shall report the findings to the Regional Water Board in accordance with General Reporting Requirement B.1 of the Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements. The written notification shall include a specific plan to resolve the low DO results within 30 days of the first date of violation.

8. The Discharger shall design, construct, operate, and maintain all ponds sufficiently to protect the integrity of containment dams and berms and prevent overtopping and/or structural failure. The operating freeboard in any pond shall never be less than two feet (measured vertically from the lowest possible point of overflow). As a means of management and to discern compliance with this requirement, the Discharger shall install and maintain in each pond a permanent staff gauge with calibration marks that clearly show the water level at design capacity and enable determination of available operational freeboard.

9. Wastewater treatment, storage, and disposal ponds or structures shall have sufficient capacity to accommodate allowable wastewater flow, design seasonal precipitation, and ancillary inflow and infiltration during the winter while ensuring continuous compliance with all requirements of this Order. Design seasonal precipitation shall be based on total annual precipitation using a return period of 100 years, distributed monthly in accordance with historical rainfall patterns.

10. On or about **1 October** of each year, available capacity shall at least equal the volume necessary to comply with Discharge Specifications D.8 and D.9.

11. All ponds and open containment structures shall be managed to prevent breeding of mosquitoes. Specifically:

    a. An erosion control program shall be implemented to ensure that small coves and irregularities are not created around the perimeter of the water surface.

    b. Weeds shall be minimized through control of water depth, harvesting, or herbicides.

    c. Dead algae, vegetation, and debris shall not accumulate on the water surface.

d. The Discharger shall consult and coordinate with the local Mosquito Abatement District to minimize the potential for mosquito breeding as needed to supplement the above measures.

12. Newly constructed or rehabilitated berms or levees (excluding internal berms that separate ponds or control the flow of water within a pond) shall be designed and constructed under the supervision of a California Registered Civil Engineer.

13. Wastewater contained in any unlined pond shall not have a pH less than 6.0 or greater than 10.0.

14. The Discharger shall monitor sludge accumulation in the wastewater treatment and storage ponds at least every five years beginning in 2020, and shall periodically remove sludge as necessary to maintain adequate storage capacity. Specifically, if the estimated volume of sludge in the reservoir exceeds ten percent (10%) of the permitted reservoir capacity, the Discharger shall complete sludge cleanout within 12 months after the date of the estimate.

E. Groundwater Limitations

Release of waste constituents from any portion of the facility shall not cause groundwater to:

1. Exceed a total coliform organism level of 2.2 MPN/100 mL over any seven-day period.
2. Contain constituents in concentrations that exceed either the Primary or Secondary MCLs established in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.
3. Contain taste or odor-producing constituents, toxic substances, or any other constituents in concentrations that cause nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses.

Compliance with these limitations shall be determined annually as specified in the Monitoring and Reporting Program using approved statistical methods.

F. Solids Disposal Specifications

Sludge, as used in this document, means the solid, semisolid, and liquid organic matter removed from wastewater treatment, settling, and storage vessels or ponds. Solid waste refers to solid inorganic matter removed by screens and soil sediments from washing of unprocessed fruit or vegetables. Except for waste solids originating from meat processing, residual solids are organic food processing byproducts such as culls, pulp, stems, leaves, and seeds that will not be subject to treatment prior to disposal or land application.

1. Sludge and solid waste shall be removed from screens, sumps, ponds, and clarifiers as needed to ensure optimal operation and adequate storage capacity.
2. Any handling and storage of sludge, solid waste, and residual solids shall be controlled and contained in a manner that minimizes leachate formation and precludes infiltration of waste constituents into soils in a mass or concentration that will violate the groundwater limitations of this Order.

3. If removed from the site, sludge, solid waste, and residual solids shall be disposed of in a manner approved by the Executive Officer and consistent with Title 27, division 2. Removal for reuse as animal feed, or land disposal at facilities (i.e., landfills, composting facilities, soil amendment sites operated in accordance with valid waste discharge requirements issued by a Regional Water Board) will satisfy this specification.

4. Any proposed change in solids use or disposal practice shall be reported in writing to the Executive Officer at least 90 days in advance of the change.

G. Provisions

1. The following reports shall be submitted pursuant to CWC section 13267 and shall be prepared as described in Provision F.5:

   a. **Upon completion** of the construction changing Storage Pond 4 to two discrete secondary treatment ponds, **and at least 120 days prior to discharging to either secondary treatment pond**, the Discharger shall submit a *Wastewater Treatment Pond Construction and Completion Report* for Secondary Aeration Ponds 1 and 2. The report shall certify that pond construction is complete, fully functional, and ready to receive wastewater in compliance with the requirements of this Order and as integral parts of the treatment system as a whole. The report shall include final plan drawings of the pond system and final as-built dimensions.

   b. At least **180 days** prior to any sludge removal and disposal, the Discharger shall submit a *Sludge Cleanout Plan*. The plan shall include a detailed plan for sludge removal, drying, and disposal. The plan shall specifically describe the phasing of the project, measures to be used to control runoff or percolate from the sludge as it is drying, and a schedule that shows how all dried sludge will be land-applied within the pond system or removed from the site prior to the onset of the rainy season **(nominally 1 October)**.

2. A discharger whose waste flow has been increasing, or is projected to increase, shall estimate when flows will reach hydraulic and treatment capacities of its treatment, collection, and disposal facilities. The projections shall be made in January, based on the last three years' average dry weather flows, peak wet weather flows and total annual flows, as appropriate. When any projection shows that capacity of any part of the facilities may be exceeded in four years, the discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board by **31 January**.

3. In accordance with California Business and Professions Code sections 6735, 7835, and 7835.1, engineering and geologic evaluations and judgments shall be performed by or under the direction of registered professionals competent and proficient in the fields pertinent to the required activities. All technical reports specified herein that contain workplans for investigations and studies, that describe the conduct of investigations and studies, or that contain technical conclusions and recommendations concerning engineering and geology shall be prepared by or under the direction of appropriately qualified professional(s), even if not explicitly

stated. Each technical report submitted by the Discharger shall bear the professional's signature and stamp.

4. The Discharger shall submit the technical reports and work plans required by this Order for consideration by the Executive Officer, and incorporate comments the Executive Officer may have in a timely manner, as appropriate. Unless expressly stated otherwise in this Order, the Discharger shall proceed with all work required by the foregoing provisions by the due dates specified.

5. The Discharger shall comply with Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) R5-2020-XXXX, which is part of this Order, and any revisions thereto as ordered by the Executive Officer. The submittal dates of Discharger self-monitoring reports shall be no later than the submittal date specified in the MRP.

6. The Discharger shall comply with the "Standard Provisions and Reporting Requirements for Waste Discharge Requirements", dated 1 March 1991, which are attached hereto and made part of this Order by reference. This attachment and its individual paragraphs are commonly referenced as "Standard Provision(s)."

7. The Discharger shall comply with all conditions of this Order, including timely submittal of technical and monitoring reports. On or before each report due date, the Discharger shall submit the specified document to the Central Valley Water Board or, if appropriate, a written report detailing compliance or noncompliance with the specific schedule date and task. If noncompliance is being reported, then the Discharger shall state the reasons for such noncompliance and provide an estimate of the date when the Discharger will be in compliance. The Discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing when it returns to compliance with the time schedule. Violations may result in enforcement action, including Central Valley Water Board or court orders requiring corrective action or imposing civil monetary liability, or in revision or rescission of this Order.

8. The Discharger shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) that are installed or used by the Discharger to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Order. Proper operation and maintenance also include adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems that are installed by the Discharger when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Order.

9. The Discharger shall use the best practicable cost-effective control technique(s) including proper operation and maintenance, to comply with this Order.

10. The Discharger shall provide certified wastewater treatment plant operators in accordance with Title 23, division 3, chapter 26.

11. As described in the Standard Provisions, the Discharger shall report promptly to the Central Valley Water Board any material change or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the discharge.

12. The Discharger shall report to the Central Valley Water Board any toxic chemical release data it reports to the State Emergency Response Commission within 15 days of reporting the data to the Commission pursuant to section 313 of the "Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1986."

13. The Discharger shall not allow pollutant-free wastewater to be discharged into the wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal systems in amounts that significantly diminish the system's capability to comply with this Order. Pollutant-free wastewater means rainfall, groundwater, cooling waters, and condensates that are essentially free of pollutants.

14. At least **90 days** prior to termination or expiration of any lease, contract, or agreement involving disposal or recycling areas or off-site reuse of effluent, used to justify the capacity authorized herein and assure compliance with this Order, the Discharger shall notify the Central Valley Water Board in writing of the situation and of what measures have been taken or are being taken to assure full compliance with this Order.

15. In the event of any change in control or ownership of the facility, the Discharger must notify the succeeding owner or operator of the existence of this Order by letter, a copy of which shall be immediately forwarded to the Central Valley Water Board.

16. To assume operation as Discharger under this Order, the succeeding owner or operator must apply in writing to the Executive Officer requesting transfer of the Order. The request must contain the requesting entity's full legal name, the state of incorporation if a corporation, the name and address and telephone number of the persons responsible for contact with the Central Valley Water Board, and a statement. The statement shall comply with the signatory paragraph of Standard Provision B.3 and state that the new owner or operator assumes full responsibility for compliance with this Order. Failure to submit the request shall be considered a discharge without requirements, a violation of the CWC. If approved by the Executive Officer, the transfer request will be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board for its consideration of transferring the ownership of this Order at one of its regularly scheduled meetings.

17. A copy of this Order including the MRP, Information Sheet, Attachments, and Standard Provisions, shall be kept at the discharge facility for reference by operating personnel. Key operating personnel shall be familiar with its contents.

18. The Central Valley Water Board will review this Order periodically and will revise requirements when necessary.

If, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, the Discharger fails to comply with the provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer may refer this matter to the Attorney General for judicial enforcement, may issue a complaint for administrative civil liability, or may take other enforcement actions. Failure to comply with this Order may result in the assessment of Administrative Civil Liability of up to $10,000 per violation, per day, depending on the violation, pursuant to the Water Code, including sections 13268, 13350 and 13385. The Central Valley Water Board reserves its right to take any enforcement actions authorized by law.

Any person aggrieved by this action of the Central Valley Water Board may petition the State Water Board for administrative review in accordance with Water Code section 13320, and California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 2050 et seq. To be timely, the State Water Board must receive the petition by 5pm on the 30th day after the date of this Order, except that if the 30th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or California State holiday, the petition must be received by the State Water Board by 5pm on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the internet at the California State Water Resources Control Board's Public Notices Water Quality Petitions webpage (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality), or will be provided upon request.

I, PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region on <date> February 2020.

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PATRICK PULUPA, Executive Officer

GLOSSARY

µg/L	micrograms per liter
µmhos/cm	micro-mhos per centimeter (same as micro-Siemens per centimeter)
BOD and BOD_5	Biological oxygen demand
DO	Dissolved oxygen
EC	Electrical conductivity at 25 ^oC
FDS	Fixed dissolved solids
gpd	gallons per day
MG	Millions of gallons
mg/L	milligrams per liter
MGD	Millions of gallons per day
mL/L	milliliters per liter
N	nitrogen
RL	Reporting limit
TDS	Total dissolved solids
TKN	Total Kjeldhal nitrogen
TSS	Total suspended solids